

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 DIWY-01 SAB-02 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /073 W

-----092317Z 009156 /65

O R 092222Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2296

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN PARTICIPATION IN ECLA MEETING

REF: STATE 128942

SUMMARY: EMBOFF MET WITH PANAMANIAN DELEGATES TO HAVANA MEETING AND DISCUSSED POINTS OUTLINED IN REFTEL. PANAMA IS SYMPATHETIC TO U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT DUPLICATION OF STRUCTURES SUPPORTING INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT BUT REMAINS COMMITTED TO ECLA REGIONAL PLAN. SINCE INJECTION OF EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES INTO CONFERENCE PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR FLOOGGING U.S. ON CANAL, PANAMA IS OPPOSED TO ATTEMPTS TO CONFINE DISCUSSIONS TO TECHNICAL MATTERS. PANAMA WILL PUSH HARD ON RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A NEW CANAL TREATY AND WILL TRY TO TAR US WITH CHARGES OF DISCRIMINATION IN THE CAANAL ZONE. DELEGATION DOES APPEAR RESPONSIVE TO NEED FOR MODERATION DURING CURRENT STAFE F NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. PANAMANIAN DELEGATES TO HAVANA MEETING JUNE 13-18 WILL BE AMELIA DE PEREZ, DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF PUBLIC ADMINIS-  
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TRATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA (HEAD OF DELEGATION) AND LOURDES CANTON, REPRESENTING THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES OFFICE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. EMBOFF MET WITH PANAMANIAN DELEGATION JUNE 9 TO DISCUSS THE ROLE OF PANAMA IN THE MEETING. DRAWING ON TALKING POINTS FROM REFTEL, EMBOFF OULINED THE CONTINUING US COMMITMENT

TO THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN THAT THE ECLA CONFERENCE MIGHT SET UP A STRUCTURE DUPLICATING THE EXISTING OAS/IACW ORGANIZATION. THE PANAMANIAN WERE RESPONSIVE TO OUR DESIRE TO AVOID DUPLICATION IN EFFICIENTLY EMPLOYING AVAILABLE RESOURCES, BUT QUESTIONED THE EFFICACY OF THE NEW RESEARCH CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES, OBSERVING THAT ECLA HAS A DISTINGUISHED RECORD IN THIS TYPE OF RESEARCH AND IS BETTER QUALIFIED TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS IN THIS AREA. PANAMA WILL ENDORSE THE ECLA DRAFT PLAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE SUPERVISORY STRUCTURE AND WILL ENCOURAGE CLOSE COORDINATION WITH OAS/IACW.

3. IN REGARD TO THE DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING EXTRA-NEOUS POLITICAL ISSUES DURING THE MEETING, PANAMANIANS REPLIED THAT THESE ISSUES HAD ALSO BEEN RAISED AT REGIONAL CONFERENCES ON WOMAN AND DEVELOPMENT IN MEXICO CITY, CARACAS, AND BUENOS AIRES. PANAMA SUPPORTS THE INCLUSION OF NIEO AND CERDS AS A PREREQUISITE FOR DISCUSSING THE FUNDAMENTAL CONSTRAINTS ON DEVELOPMENT. THEIR STRATEGY AT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE TO PUSH FOR ENDORSEMENT OF THE STATEMENT ON THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS CONTAINED IN THE DRAFT PLAN, AND TO PROMOTE THE THESIS THAT THE US PRESENCE IN THE CANAL ZONE HAS RESULTED IN DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PANAMANIAN WOMEN. THE DELEGATES WERE RELUCTANT TO EXPLORE THIS ARGUMENT IN DETAIL, BUT THEIR CURSORY COMMENTS PRESAGE AN EFFORT SIMILAR TO PANAMA'S RECENT DENUNCIATION OF US HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE CANAL ZONE AT THE ILO CONFERENCE.

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4. THE PANAMANIANS SAID THAT THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN RESTRICTING THEIR FOCUS TO TECHNICAL PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE PANAMA MUST USE THIS FORUM TO REITERATE HER DEMANDS TO RESTORE TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TO ELIMINATE ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION. HOWEVER, THEY EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR THE US POSITION THAT THE CANAL QUESTION IS BEING HANDLED BILATERALLY AND ARE WILLING TO CONSULT INFORMALLY WITH USDEL TO MINIMIZE ACrimonious POLITICAL DEBATE DURING THIS DELICATE STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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